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ABSTRACT

An attempt is made to demythologize certain aspects of academic administration that even knowledgeable and experienced academic administrators often ignore at the peril of effective leadership. Eight essays are presented which question these myths associated with upper level administration in universities. These myths tell us that administrators will (1) experience a honeymoon, (2) lead a hyperkinetic life, (3) inherit untouchables, (4) yearn for the classroom, (5) equivocate, (6) be torn by conflicting constituencies, (7) find a way, and (8) be lonely at the top. Each discussion is followed by a collection of views on the topic from practicing administrators. The definition of a myth, as used in this context, is given as a received idea containing some portion of truth--however small. It is noted that these myths for administrators are received ideas that are not much more than shared stories that attempt to impose some order and meaning on professional lives spent in a slightly anarchical academic world. (GLR)

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